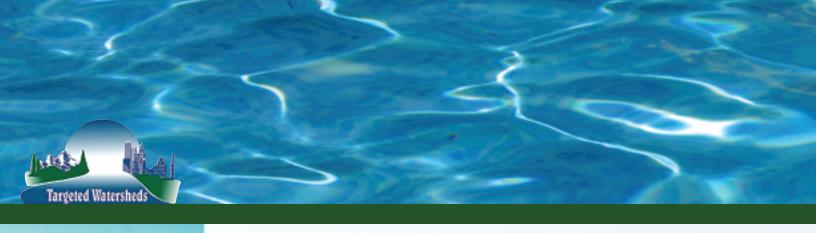


This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/twg">http://www.epa.gov/twg</a>.

# EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005



## 2003 Grantee UPDATE

### Greater Blue Earth River

MN, IA

#### MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Excess nutrients and sediment
- Algae blooms
- Loss of wetland habitat and aquatic life
- Lost recreational opportunities

### **PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

The Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council is actively demonstrating effective ways to improve water quality within the basin as well as downstream through partnership-based projects focused on conservation cost-share, wetland restoration, and public education. To date, the council has:



Rain gardens reduce runoff and provide aesthetic benefits.

- Awarded 107 cost-share contracts for conservation practices
- Implemented 180 on-the-ground conservation practices
- Encouraged third crop rotation to minimize erosion through participation at County Fairs with a project called "Conservation on Wheels"
- Worked with various partners to restore 139 acres of wetlands to help improve habitat and other valuable functions
- Collaborated with the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Martin County to monitor restoration sites and conduct a comparative watershed analysis of corn soybean rotation vs. same with Best Management Practices
- · Conducted its first, of several, nutrient trials
- Conducted 36 educational presentations for approximately 1,200 people on erosion control and rain gardens
- Constructed four rain gardens, which will help reduce runoff and improve filtration
- Established a thriving network of citizen stream monitoring volunteers

"The Targeted **Watershed Grants Program brought** partners of the **Greater Blue Earth Watershed closer** together. This occurred through the application process and even more so with implementing the workplan. **Unification and** partnerships are major components of what watershed management is all about."

Lauren Klement
 Greater Blue Earth
 River Targeted
 Watersheds Grant
 Coordinator